



St Andrew's Westlands

A warm welcome to anyone worshipping with us today for the first time.

After the 10.45 services, you are warmly invited to stay in church for refreshments. These will be served in the South aisle, tea & squash by the orange oval ceramic at the front, and coffee from the back.

Sunday, 8th December

8.30 am Holy Communion

Philippians 1:3-11 (p.1179) Luke 3:1-6 (p.1034)

10.45 am Holy Communion & Toy Service

Opportunity for individual prayer after service in lady chapel

6.30 pm Café Church, Parish Room

Collect for: The Second Sunday of Advent

*O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.*



Welcoming the
whole community



Discovering
God's love



Following
Jesus' teaching

This week...

Mon 9 th Dec	9.30 am	Friarswood School Service, Church
	4.00 pm	Xcite, Parish Room
	7.30 pm	Standing Committee, Parish Room
Tues 10 th Dec	10.00 am	Little Sparklers, Parish Room
	3.30 pm	Festive Afternoon Tea, Parish Room
Wed 11 th Dec	8.30 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
	1.30 pm	Renew Westlands Café, Parish Room
Thurs 12 th Dec	2.30 pm	Book Club, Parish Room (NB Later Time)
Fri 13 th Dec	7.30 pm	Compline via Zoom
Sat 14 th Dec	1.00 pm	Churches Together Open Air Service, Guildhall
Sun 15 th Dec	8.30 am	Morning Worship
	10.45 am	All Age Carol Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship, Parish Room

The church building is also open on Monday and Thursday 9.30-3.00.

Thank You ... to all who have brought gifts and donations to this morning's services, which will be passed on to Elizabeth House/'find the glow' refuge who work with families experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

Newcastle Churches Together Open Air Service ... will be on Saturday, 14th December outside the Guildhall. It will be from 1.00-1.30 pm, ie later than in previous years. Do join us as a Christian witness to our town.

Mince Pies Needed ... for our All Age Carol Service next Sunday (15th) at 10.45 am; and also for the Candle-lit Carol service at 6.30 pm on 22nd - just take them to the serving tables in the south aisle when you arrive.

Snow/Ice ... over winter it is possible there will be snowfall or ice on the church grounds. We will endeavour to keep a pedestrian route to the front door clear on Sundays. But even this is not always possible, and if the weather is particularly hazardous there may be occasions when we could close the car park for safety and ask cars to park on the road.

Social event - Date For Your Diary ... on Thursday 30th January, the Events Working Group have arranged a Chinese meal out to celebrate the Chinese New Year, at the Regent Chinese Restaurant, 12 High Street, Newcastle. ST5 1RA. This will start at 7 pm and cost £23 per

person for a 4 course meal. Why not bring your friends? More details and a sign-up list in due course.

Have You Heard of Easyfundraising? ... with Christmas coming up, and probably more people shopping online, it seems appropriate to remind people of this simple way to help with church's financial situation. If you ever order anything online (including your weekly grocery shop), you could help raise income for the church **with no cost to yourself**, by signing up to Easyfundraising. A small group of the congregation already belong to this, and between them have generated about £400 since 2022. A big thank you to those people. It is easy to sign up [link here](#) When you want to purchase something you then login to the Easyfundraising website (or download their app and enter that way) to select a retailer The retailer then makes a small payment to St. Andrew's. It may only be a few pence, but it all adds up to helping our finances. With over 7000 brands participating, it is highly likely that some of your favourite shopping sites are amongst them. Remember, every little helps and it doesn't cost you a penny!

Notices From Previous Weeks

Festive Afternoon Tea ... Tuesday, 10th December at 3.30 pm in the Parish Room. All are very welcome, please bring along friends and family for this special tea. Cost £4.50. Please pay on the day. Places can be booked by contacting Glenys Gill.

Special diets can be catered for if you let us know in advance. We hope a good number of our Church family and friends will be able to join us. Offers of help will also be gratefully received

Carol Singing ...

at the Royal Stoke University Hospital ... the Chaplaincy Team invite you to come and sing carols for some of the wards on Monday 9th December, 6–7.30 pm. For further information or to book please contact Andrew by 1st December.

around Westlands Parish ... there is also the opportunity to sing carols around the nearby streets on Monday 16th December. Meet at the Parish Room in time for a 7.30 pm departure; and we will conclude with refreshments and mince pies at the Vicarage.

PCC Decisions Last Week Included ...

Mission Action Plan ... a plan for 2025/6 was agreed (link [here](#)) - this will be formally launched in January.

Safeguarding ... with the importance of this subject for churches highlighted recently, the PCC formalised its commitment that our local policies will take account of a 2017 policy paper which remains the foundation of CofE thinking - [Promoting a safer church](#) Our current policies are pinned on the notice board near to the hymn book shelves, and are [here](#) and [here](#).

Coins/Silver/Gold collection ... thanks to all who have donated coins, elements of silver and gold scrap. Last weekend's visit to the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter generated another £1,224 for the Hall Fund taking the total well over £10,000. Because of this, it has been decided to continue receiving any contributions of pre:1946 British silver coins; pre:1964 USA silver coins and any scrap silver or gold bits. Funds raised will go directly into Church Funds.

Thank you again for all your support, Bob Bell.

Used Postage Stamps ... please remember to save your used postage stamps and put them in the box at the back of Church. Please cut them from the envelopes, leaving a small border. Stamps are accepted by the Oxfam Shop, not just at Christmas, but all year round and are taken regularly. Oxfam will also accept stamp albums.

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Transport to 10.30 service: 07951 674453 on the morning.8.30-9.30 am
www.churchinthewestlands.org.uk